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If you can't play big, play smart.

Funding isn't available for many of the road-widening projects that are sorely needed in Lake County, but the county's new Intelligent Transportation System will help officials better manage the existing road network.

Financed largely through leveraged federal funds, Lake County's new \$1.3 million traffic management center is now up and running in Libertyville, part of a multi-million fiber-optic network connecting and synchronizing traffic signals on arterial routes across the county.

U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, R-Highland Park, said he is proud to have helped secure \$3 million in federal funding for the project, dubbed Lake County PASSAGE, shorthand for Arterial Signal Synchronization and Travel Guidance.